

***Iowa Outdoors***  
**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**www.iowadnr.com**

Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653  
[mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us)

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**Nov. 16, 2004**

1. Trout Headed for Banner Lakes Wednesday
2. Weekend Program Introduces Deer Hunting to Iowa Teens
3. Big, Bold, and Beautiful – Iowa's Monster Whitetails are Legends of the Fall – by Lowell Washburn [electronic photo available]
4. Songbird Feast

**TROUT HEADED FOR BANNER LAKES WEDNESDAY**

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will stock an estimated 1,400 catchable sized trout at Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park, north of Indianola, around 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17.

The newly created trout fishery has been received well by central Iowa anglers, said Marion Conover, chief of the Iowa DNR's fisheries bureau. "It is nice to feel a buzz among the local anglers, especially when someone hooks on to one of the trophy-sized trout we released," Conover said. "This is a really unique opportunity and the people have turned out."

Anglers who want to fish for the trout are required to purchase the trout privilege for \$11 in addition to an Iowa fishing license. The daily bag limit for trout is five and the possession limit is 10.

The trout are from the Big Springs hatchery near Elkader. This is the second of three fall and winter trout stockings at the 59-acre lake. The DNR will stock the lake again in January.

Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park is the only central Iowa trout fishery.

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## **WEEKEND PROGRAM INTRODUCES DEER HUNTING TO IOWA TEENS**

GUTHRIE CENTER – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting 20, 12 to 15 year old novice hunters for a deer hunt at Springbrook State Park, Nov. 19 to 21. This is the first time for this type of event in Iowa.

“The weekend will be as hands on as possible for these new hunters so they can get the total experience,” said A.Jay Winter, who is coordinating the event for the Iowa DNR. “We found a need for this type of experience because the number of Iowa hunters is decreasing and the deer herd has increased.”

Each of the youth hunters will have a mentor for the entire weekend. The mentor can be a parent, relative or friend or, if a mentor was not available, Winter provided one.

The weekend begins with a program Friday evening that covers whitetail deer biology and continues through deer management, hunting equipment, methods, scouting and laws, a safety trail, how to sight in a firearm, field dressing, photography and processing.

“The education session will wrap up Saturday morning and the hunt will follow to allow these young hunters a chance to apply the skills they just learned,” Winter said. Hunters will be assigned to specific units in the park and allowed to harvest one deer. They will be paired with their mentors at all times.

“This weekend is going to be as much for the mentors as it is for the students,” Winter said. “With this program we can give young hunters a positive first experience that they can carry the rest of their lives and allow the mentors to share the experience with the youth. Everyone wins.”

**For more information contact Winter at (641) 747-8383 ext.11 or [ajay.winter@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:ajay.winter@dnr.state.ia.us).**

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### **Big, Bold, and Beautiful Iowa's Monster White-tails Are LEGENDS OF THE FALL**

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

CLEAR LAKE -- It is by no mistake that November is called the Hunter's Moon. Monster white-tailed bucks are on the prowl. And for the state's 30,000 archery deer hunters, November simply offers the best of the best.

In most Iowa counties the fall breeding season, or rut, usually reaches its peak about mid-month. By then most bucks, including the real bruisers, have forsaken their totally nocturnal lifestyles. Those magnificent trophy stags that have somehow managed to remain virtually invisible during the other 11 months of the year will appear, suddenly and boldly, in broad daylight. Locked into a perpetual search mode, they relentlessly cruise ridge tops, river bottoms and brushy draws in hope of finding a doe.

Sometimes, these wandering bucks find rival males instead. When that happens, the Iowa timbers resound with the deadly clash of dueling antlers. Most fights are brief and non-lethal. The exceptions usually occur when two real monsters accidentally cross trails. For white-tailed deer, the rut is extremely serious business, and mature bucks are literally out to kill the competition. In most cases, the loser is driven away -- bloody and bruised, perhaps, but able to fight another day. In some cases, however, the battles take on a more sinister tone. If the antlers of the animals are evenly matched and become hopelessly locked, both contestants may face a bleak future.

As the rut reaches its crescendo, bow hunting is no longer an hour after daybreak or hour before sunset proposition. Bucks, and plenty of them, are on the move 24/7. During the Hunter's Moon there is no such thing as a bad time for hunters to sit in a tree. Seasoned archers will tell you that noon can be as productive as sunrise.

But even now, the big bucks don't come easy. Tagging one still requires ample amounts of scouting, woodsmanship, and above all -- patience. Tagging a monster generally means passing up numerous six and eight pointers. That's tough. For many hunters the temptation of seeing those lesser bucks is just too great.

When the Big Buck finally does arrive, many hunters simply crack under the strain. After the drilling the Bull's Eye on plastic deer targets all summer, a hunter may easily miss the entire animal once the moment of truth arrives. It's called Buck Fever, and it is the only explanation as to why so many new broadheads end up in the ground or imbedded in tree trunks instead of in deer.

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## **SONGBIRD FEAST**

Songbird lovers can supercharge their songbird-feeding program by planting beautiful trees and shrubs to provide food and year around shelter for their feathered friends.

"Urban and rural yards can provide important habitat for many species of songbirds, and greatly strengthen your bird feeding program," said Stan Tate, forester with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, in Wapello.

"Now is the time to order songbird packets to plant in your yard next spring. It will make the birds happy and your yard more beautiful," said Tate. For only \$20 and a few hours work, "you can plant trees and shrubs that will help feed and shelter your songbirds for your entire lifetime. Plant only once, but enjoy for many years."

The songbird packet is grown by the DNR forestry bureau and contains 16 favorite shrubs and 4 trees proven to attract songbirds year around. These are all grown from seed collected in Iowa.

The packet contains two bur oak trees, two white pine trees, four wild plum bushes, four chokecherry bushes, four gray dogwood bushes, and four serviceberry bushes. This planting can be easily fit into a small lot or backyard in town and will help beautify the neighborhood.

"Songbird packets make great gifts for the holidays," Tate said. The State Forest Nursery provides gift certificates for those receiving the gift this spring. The packet will arrive between mid-March and the end of May along with planting instructions.

To order, call 1-800-865-2477 and ask for the Songbird Packet. Checks, VISA or Master Card are accepted. Shipping is free. For more information, log on to [www.iowadnr.com/forestry](http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry).

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